राज्यों में विभक्त करना चाहिए। इंदिरा जी ने अपने कैबिनेट सेक्रेटरी मि० मुकर्जी को कहा था कि इन राज्यों को छोटे राज्यों में बनाने के लिए एक्सरसाइज करिए। अभी श्री बी० पी० सिंह ने कहा कि एक बार फिर से राज्य पुनर्गठन आयोग बने। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन यह है कि या तो यहां के आंदोलन की पृष्ठभूमि को देखते हुए 50 सालों से जो लोग यहां संघर्ष कर रहे हैं, हम सभी दलों के एम०-पीज़ का एक संगठन है सर्वदलीय छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य गठन मंच और हम सब लोग मिल कर उसके लिए संघर्ष कर रहे हैं। छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य की घोषणा की जाए, अलग से राज्य बनाया जाए। अगर उसमें देर होती है तो कम से कम एक नया राज्य पुनर्गठन आयोग बनाया जाए जो देश में कहां-कहां नए राज्यों का गठन होना चाहिए, इस विषय पर विचार करे।

इसी के साथ में आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं।

श्री गया सिंह (बिहार): मैं भी एसोसिएट करता हूं .....**(व्यवधान)**

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): मि० मिरी। ....**(व्यवधान)** उनका नाम है। अभी आप बैठिए। भाषण नहीं होगा।

श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी श्री अजीत जोगी ने छत्तसीगढ़ राज्य के निर्माण की जो मांग की है उससे मैं अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूं। महोदय, मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूं कि मध्य प्रदेश का क्षेत्रफल चार लाख पांच हजार वर्ग किलोमीटर है। उसमें से छत्तीसगढ़ का जो क्षेत्रफल है वह एक लाख 35 हजार 194 वर्ग किलोमीटर है। महोदय, हमारे देश में कई राज्यों का जो निर्माण हुआ है, जैसे गुजरात है, मुंबई है, पंजाब, हरियाणा, हिमाचल, गोआ .... **(व्यवधान)**

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): आप उसमें मत जाइये वह तो उन्होंने बोल दिए हैं। ... **(व्यवधान)**

श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी: बिना राज्य पुनर्गठन आयोग के ये राज्य बनाए गए हैं। छत्तीसगढ़ की मांग बहुत पुरानी है। मैं चाहता हूं कि छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य शीघ्र घोषित किया जाए ताकि इसका विकास हो सके। यह वहां की जनभावना बन चुकी है और जनआंदोलन हो रहा है। इससे पहले कि वहां के लोग इस मांग के पीछे भड़क उठें या हिंसात्मक आंदोलन करने पड़े, उसके पहले ही यह सरकार इस मांग को पूरा कर ले, क्योंकि जैसा उन्होंने कहा कि दो बड़ी पार्टियों ने इस मांग को अपने घोषणा-पत्र में रखा है और यह मांग बहुत जायज है। हम शासन से कोई अधिक धन नहीं चाहते हैं। हमारी वायबिलिटी है। हम सब कुछ करना चाहते हैं। सिर्फ घोषणा करने की आवश्यकता है। धन्यवाद।

श्री गया सिंह: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एसोसिएट करना चाहता हूं। जैसा जोगी जी ने कहा है कि पुनर्गठन भी सैपरेट राज्य की घोषणा होनी चाहिए और बनना चाहिए। ....**(व्यवधान)**

श्री राघवजी (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय .....**(व्यवधान)**

श्री लक्खीराम अग्रवाल: महोदय .....**(व्यवधान)**

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): आप दोनों का नाम भी एसोसिएशन में डाल दिया जाएगा। .....**(व्यवधान)**

श्री लक्खीराम अग्रवाल (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं अजीत जोगी से .....**(व्यवधान)** अपने को सम्बद्ध करना चाहता हूं। .....**(व्यवधान)**

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): नोटिस देना चाहिए सब से पहले.....**(व्यवधान)** अब संबंध हो गया। .....**(व्यवधान)**

(श्री राघवजी: मैं भी अपने को सम्बद्ध करना चाहता हूं। .....**(व्यवधान)**

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): इनका भी नाम सम्बद्ध हो गया। .....**(व्यवधान)**

श्री सुरिन्दर कुमार सिंगला (पंजाब): जितने भी स्टेट्स बनते जायेंगे उतने टहरिटोरियल डिसप्यूट्स बढ़ते जायेंगे .....**(व्यवधान)**

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): श्री बोम्बई। यह आजादी के 50 साल के ऊपर स्टेटमेंट दे रहे हैं।

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Government's Decision to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): On 15th August, 1997 India would complete 50 years of its Independence. This is a major milestone for us. Freedom did not come to us easily. We struggled hard for achieving it under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and many other leaders. It would,

therefore, be appropriate that we commemorate in a befitting manner the spirit of our Independence by recalling the aspirations during the freedom struggle and the achievements during the last 50 years.

Addressing the Constituent Assembly, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of free India declared:

> "Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the whole world sleeps. India will awake to life and freedom."

Now that we are completing 50 years of our freedom, it would also be time for introspection to see how close we have come to the redemption of that pledge.

In keeping with the thinking that this would be a major event in our national life, the Government of India has decided to organise a year-long celebrations starting from 15 August 1997. The Department of Culture in the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been designated as the nodal agency for these commemorative celebrations.

With a view to establish in advance a structure which would plan, implement and monitor suitable activities during the Golden Jubilee Celebrations, a National Committee under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister and an Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Human Resource Development have been set up. The members of the National Committee will come from various walks of life and their names will be notified shortly. A Cabinet Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Home Affairs is also being constituted.

The National Committee has been mandated to provide general policy directions and guidelines for the formulation of suitable programmes. The Cabinet Committee would be empowered to take all decisions on behalf of the Government with regard to all matters connected with an efficient and successful organisation of the celebrations. The functions of the Implementation Committee would *inter alia* include—

(a) evolving evants and programmes geared towards commemoration of this momentous evant; and

(b) Implementing such events and programmes.

There is need to rekindle the spirit of freedom struggle in the country and make our younger generations know about the epic story of freedom struggle. The emphasis in the programmes will be to reach out and involve as many people as is possible rather than confining the events to Delhi or State capitals. The functions would also highlight the manner in which the various democratic institutions in our social, economic and political life have evolved and continued during the last 50 years.

Since all these activities will have a very wide gamut and involve Government machinery as well as people at all levels, it would be important to constitute State and Union Territory level committees under the Chairmanship of the respective Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors. These committees will evolve State-level programmes on the one hand and oversee the implementation of the National and State-level programmes on the other. The Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors of the States and Union Territories respectively have been requested to constitute such Committees.

I am sure that the help of all the Hon'ble Members of this august House shall be forthcoming in our endeavour to celebrate this momentous event in the life of our Nation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Some clarifications are there...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): On this statement, there should be no clarifications... (*Interruptions*)...

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (Delhi): Sir, I want to seek only one clarification. Sir, the Minister has said that Lt. Governors and Chief Ministers will be the Chairmen...(*Interruptions*)... Will there be two Chairmen?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: In the case of Union Territories, the Lt. Governors and the in case of the States the Chief Ministers would be the Chairmen.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Delhi is a Union Territory...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Delhi is a State now. ...(*Interruptions*)... It has got statehood. So, Chief Minister will be the Chairman. Delhi is our National Capital also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now, we have to take an important decision ...(*Interruptions*)... Now, the question is, we have the Finance Bill, discussion on the Budget of Uttar Pradesh (1996-97) and then, of course, we have Special Mentions and today is Friday so we have Private Members' business. Now, the House has to take a decision. There are two or three options:

Plan A: We have to forgo lunch hour and finish the Finance Bill ...(*Interruptions*)... listen to it. I am giving you the option. We finish the Finance Bill and the Budget and then we can go in for the Private Members' business or we dispense with Private Members' business, go for lunch, come back, and discuss the Finance Bill and the Uttar Pradesh Budget ...(*Interruptions*)... which one does the House prefers?

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Sir, today, we can forgo the Private Members' business...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI M.A. BABY: Sir, if you permit me, I want to make a submission ...(*Interruptions*)... It is very clear that Private Members' business is very important and only in absolutely extraordinary circumstances can we postpone the Private Members' business. It is not a good practice if we encroach upon the right of individual Members. Therefore, we can reschedule, the timing can be rescheduled, but dispensing with the Private Members' business is not proper...(*interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): So, the third option is, we can postpone the Private Members' business. Which option would the House like? ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Sir, we have no objection to the third option ...(*interruptions*)...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We have no objection to the third option ...(*interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM)]: Now, can we take up the Finance Bill?...(*interruptions*)...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No ...(*interruptions*)...Let us go for lunch.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): The sense of the House is for lunch. We can adjourn the House for one hour, by this time, we can finish ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, the House may be adjourned till 2 o'clock...(*interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Special Mentions are there after the legislative business of Private Members...(*interruptions*)... After Private Members' business, Special mentions will come. That is the convention in this House ...(*interruptions*)... The House stands adjourned for lunch till 2 o'clock.

The House then adjourned for lunch at seventeen minutes past one of the clock.

2.00 P.M.

The House reassembled after lunch at three minutes past two of the clock.

The Vice-Chairman (Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan) *in the Chair.*

THE VICE - CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): We shall now take up the Finance Bill.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, I will take just half-a-minute. As far as the working journalists are concerned, the Government, the previous Government, agreed to give 20 per cent relief to them, and it was to be implemented. A decision was taken. It was announced by the then Labour Minister. Unfortunately, it was not implemented because pressure was given by the newspaper barons. Now, the present Government has shelved it.

In fact, Madam, the working journalists have been demanding 35 per cent, or, at least, 30 per cent. The Government has been trying to add only something more and give it. Because of the pressure from the newspaper barons, the decision has been shelved. It is not being implemented.

Therefore, I want the hon. Minister to respond and announce that it would be implemented, by increassing it to 30 per cent, at least. Otherwise, it would not be implemented at all. I do not know what the response of the Government is. I want the Government to respond imediately. Today is the last day of the Session, Madam. They have been writing. Articles are appearing. I would appeal to the Government. Let the Government be not under any pressure from the newspaper barons. They should implement it immediately.

THE VOCE-CHARMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): We shall now take up the Finance Bill. Shri P. chidambaram to move the Motion for consideration of the Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1996.

THE FINANCE (No. 2) BILL, 1996

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Madam Vice-Chairman, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to give effect to the Financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1996-97, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Madam, the Bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha after accepting the amendments proposed by me. These amendments were proposed by me after taking into account the opinions expressed by hon. Members of both Houses of Parliament, by trade and industry, by the media, and by the public, in general. I believe I have been pragmatic while striking a balance between the need to raise resources for the State and the impact of the proposals on various sectors of the economy and sections of the people. On the direct taxes side, I have made suitable amendments in the proposals relating to MAT and carry forward of depreciation to remove genuine hardships. I have given encouragement to savings in the infrastructure sector as also incentives to boost the capital market. I have also made the capital gains tax uniform by reducing the rate of tax for partnership firms and association of persons. I have also plugged the loopholes in the provisions relating to sale and lease-back transactions and provisions relating to section 43B of the Income-tax Act.

On the indirect taxes side, I have made proposals relating to further rationalisation of the tax structure as well as strengthening the procedures so as to achieve the twin objectives of helping the honest tax payers to reduce compliance cost and curb evasion of taxes. The Budget proposals have been generally welcomed by one and all.

With these words, I commend the Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1996 to the Council of States and request the Members of this